

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

## *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America annually recognize the contributions and service of the 1.8 million women who have served in the United States Armed Forces; and,

*Whereas*, There are more than 1,200,000 women veterans in the United States representing 4.6 percent of the total veteran population; and,

*Whereas*, The 2000 census identified 3,898 women veterans in South Dakota, and the number of women serving in the United States Armed Forces and the number of women veterans continues to increase; and,

*Whereas*, Fourteen percent of active duty military personnel are women, and 15.5 percent of reserve units are women; and,

*Whereas*, Women veterans have contributed greatly to the security of the United States through honorable military service, often involving great hardship and danger; and,

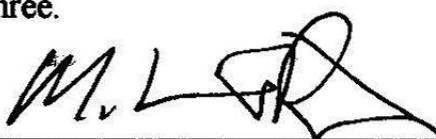
*Whereas*, Recognizing women veterans will help both to promote important gains made by women veterans and to focus attention on the special needs of women veterans:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 3, 2003, as

### ***WOMEN VETERANS' RECOGNITION DAY***

in South Dakota, and I ask all citizens to join me in thanking and recognizing the women veterans of our great state.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this First Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.



M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:



Chris Nelson, Secretary of State